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## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The OKD (~~Czechoslovakia Kolben Denek~~, ~~Slany National Corporation in Slany~~ (N 51/F 50)) is an independent concern. In the surrounding district are several smaller factories subordinate to it which serve as workshops. This factory does not manufacture armaments. Its main products, intended for export, are cranes, steam rollers, excavators, and diggers.1

- a. The following products are designated for export to the USSR:

Steam rollers  
Tractors  
Bulldozers  
Excavators  
Bridge construction materials

- b. Products designated for export to Western countries are:

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Cranes  
Mining machinery  
Cages for mines  
Transportation material for mines

- c. Approximate yearly production figures are:

Cranes	-	3,000 tons
Excavators	-	2,000 tons
Others	-	15,000 tons (details not known)

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- d. According to a recent instruction, the production of excavators is to stop in 1953. The excavators are made under contract to an unknown firm [redacted]

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2. The General Director of the works, named Votapek [redacted] His right hand man is an engineer, Freml, who is a technician [redacted] Both of these men came from the Skoda works.<sup>2</sup> The technical director is Gregor, an engineer; [redacted] In charge of planning is Habas. The chairman of the works council, Zapotocky [redacted]
3. The works are very short of white metals, steel, and bronze. Substitutes for these metals are not satisfactory. There is also a shortage of special equipment, such as taps-and-dies and couplings. The works are badly supplied with material for assembly, because the foundries do not fulfill their plans. This delay in assembly means, consequently, that the works also fall short of fulfilling their plans. It is expected, however, that the new iron works which are now being built at Kuncice will deliver material to Slany which will improve the situation. The assembly technique at the works is bad. Two years ago they were employing the Bata system which was known as system SPH. The introduction of the Bata system brought about a large re-organization; now, however, it has been found to be unsuitable for this type of factory. The old system is gradually being brought back again, causing some measure of disorganization.
4. The works employ about 1,800 to 1,900 people of whom about 180 are white collar workers. The percentage of white collar workers is never supposed to exceed ten percent. Absenteeism is frequent at the works. The doctors often pronounce workers unfit for duty when they are in fact fit, either because they are afraid of being branded as anti-social and of losing their practices, or because they hate the regime and want to sabotage it. There is no enthusiasm in the factory for the work. Personnel complain of the struggle they had to get an eight hour day in the bad old days, and yet now they have to work twelve hours per day. The general shortage of food, textiles, and other necessities also vitiates work-incentive. Comparisons are drawn between the fall in prices in the USSR and the rise in prices in Czechoslovakia. The free market is criticised, and the growing black market for which wages are not sufficient is condemned. There is no confidence in the money, and people are afraid of someday being branded as collaborators if they work too hard. Those most affected by the frequent purges are not the workers but the white collar staff. The communist young people are interested only in working in the office, not inside the factory. It is, therefore, the white collar workers whose place the communists wish to take. The white collar workers, once removed, are then obliged to work in the factory itself. The purges do not catch the technicians, who are difficult to replace.
5. Employees of the factory who are sent abroad undergo a special interview by the Communist Party organization of the works. They are first asked to reply to political questions, and then they receive instructions on how to behave abroad. Chief stress is laid upon the fact that they must not tell anyone about the factory or the economic situation in Czechoslovakia, and they must not get into touch with the treacherous emigre circles. However, they are not obliged to belong to the Communist Party in order to be sent abroad. Political indoctrination of the workers and the foremen takes place in the factory every evening and is called "quarter hour". The indoctrination of the staff is arranged by the Ministry of Heavy Machinery and lasts one month. For more important persons the course lasts six months. The one month course is held at a hotel in Jicin (O 51/G 33) in Bohemia, and takes up the history of Communism to the present day.

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6. Exports from the factory are handled by the Investa Corporation. One of the leading members of Investa is the former export manager of CKD, an engineer named Mladejovsky [redacted]

1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] as of 18 January 1952, [redacted] principal products of this factory were shovel-dredgers, bulldozers, and steel beams for bridge construction. 50X1-HUM
2. [redacted] Comment. The Skoda Works in Pilsen, now known as the V.I. Lenin Works, appear to be putting their men in the leading positions of the Czech heavy industries. It would appear that the intention is to centralize all the heavy industry under the control of one firm, and that this is being done as a long term plan.

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